

cumberson “skills essays” with résumé-based applications.

Despite the initiative, many federal agencies still take as long as 200 days from the date of a vacancy to hire. While Christine Griffin, deputy director of OPM, told Senate panel last month that the OPM efforts had “systemically overhauled” the process and made the USAJOBS Web site more “efficient and user-friendly,” other experts disagreed. The dean of Harvard’s Kennedy School of Government and the director of the National Association of Schools of Public Affairs contended that the government continues to drives away a majority of graduate degree holders.

This failing couldn’t come at a worse time: The government will face its largest wave of employee retirements in the next five years, and critical posts in fields such as national security and science will need to be filled.

Luckily, there is a bipartisan answer. The Federal Hiring Process Improvement Act of 2010, co-sponsored by Sen. Daniel Akaka (D-Hawaii) and then-Sen. George Voinovich (R-Ohio), was passed unanimously by the Senate. The bill, intended to build on the president’s directive, requires all agencies to limit their hiring time to 80 days, inform job candidates of their statuses in a timely manner, convert to a universal résumé application and craft job descriptions as well as announcements in plain writing.

The bill failed to pass the House, thanks to lawmakers leery of affiliating themselves with “federal hiring” legislation at a time when government spending is unpopular. But it makes no sense to punish recent college graduates for the excessive spending of the past.

Mr. Akaka, who chairs the subcommittee on oversight of government management and the federal workforce, is lobbying anew for ratification of his proposed reform.

His measure deserves support. It’s time for the federal government to take the recruiting of human resources as seriously as successful private and nonprofit organizations do. Today’s antiquated hiring practices are thwarting a generation of inspired public servants in the making.

HONORING YASHAR ALIYEV

HON. VIRGINIA FOXX

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 23, 2011

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the distinguished service of His Excellency Yashar Aliyev, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Azerbaijan to the United States of America. Mr. Aliyev is completing his term as Ambassador to the United States after five years of service. Before he accepted his assignment to come to the United States in 2006, he served as Azerbaijan’s Permanent Representative to the United Nations.

Ambassador Aliyev has worked tirelessly and effectively to strengthen the strategic partnership between Azerbaijan and the United States.

Through frequent and productive communications with the United States Congress, Ambassador Aliyev has helped raise awareness of the issues pertaining to Azerbaijan and foster mutual understanding between the peoples of the two countries.

I ask my colleagues to join me today in recognizing Ambassador Aliyev for his exemplary service and valuable contributions to pro-

moting bilateral relations and in extending best wishes for continued success in his future endeavors.

TRANSPARENCY IN REGULATORY ANALYSIS OF IMPACTS ON THE NATION ACT OF 2011

SPEECH OF

HON. STEPHEN LEE FINCHER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 22, 2011

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2401) to require analyses of the cumulative and incremental impacts of certain rules and actions of the Environmental Protection Agency, and for other purposes:

Mr. FINCHER. Mr. Chair, I come to the floor this morning to discuss an issue important to all American families living on a budget.

This Administration’s overreaching regulations placed on energy are causing increases to American families’ utility bills.

Families need certainty that their energy needs will be met and their energy costs will remain low.

Which is why, I have introduced America’s Energy Independence Act, which prevents the EPA from enforcing the Cross-State Air Pollution rule for 10 years to keep the cost of utilities low for families.

As we all know, the Cross-State Air Pollution rule finalized by the Environmental Protection Agency on July 6, 2011, and will lead to negative increases in energy prices for families, job loss, with what benefit.

This country needs to create a stable regulatory environment, where the energy costs to families is balanced with the benefit of the regulation, allowing families to have certainty that any new rules and regulations will have their best interests in mind.

Mr. Speaker, this rule was just recently updated in 2005.

Simply put, this regulation will have a significant negative economic impact of \$2.4 billion dollars a year, a cost that will be passed to families across the country, including the Eighth District of Tennessee.

The bottom line is that the EPA’s Cross-State Air Pollution rule will contribute to a reduction in energy outputs, and an increase to families’ utility bills.

At a time when families are struggling to make ends meet, the last action the Obama Administration should take is another multi-billion dollar regulation that kills jobs and increase costs.

That is why I would like to thank the House Committee on Energy and Commerce for including the language of H.R. 2891.

HONORING THE MAINE ARMY NATIONAL GUARD MILITARY FUNERAL HONORS PROGRAM

HON. MICHAEL H. MICHAUD

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 23, 2011

Mr. MICHAUD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Maine Army National Guard

Military Funeral Honors Program. The Maine Army National Guard Military Funeral Honors Program offers the military honors that are now an entitlement to all honorably discharged veterans.

The rendering of Military Funeral Honors is a way to show the Nation’s deep gratitude to those who, in times of war and peace, have faithfully defended our country. This ceremonial paying of respect is the final demonstration a grateful Nation can provide to the veterans’ families.

Established in 2003, the Maine Army National Guard Military Funeral Honors Program serves the veterans of Maine with honor and respect. The soldiers who make up the Funeral Honors Program are of the highest caliber that Maine has to offer and deserve our recognition.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in thanking the Maine Army National Guard Military Funeral Honors Program for their outstanding service for Maine’s veterans and their families.

RECOGNIZING THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF JAKE DENHART

HON. DAN BURTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 23, 2011

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the accomplishments of one of my younger constituents—Jake Denhart, who at only 16 years old has exuded a true entrepreneurial spirit. For years, Jake has been working around his neighborhood, shoveling snow and mowing lawns for small fees. He even decided to give his business a name, calling it “Innovative Solutions.” From what I understand, Jake has managed to put away almost \$20K in savings earned from the work he has done over the years. Through his hard work, he has also earned a high level of trust with his neighbors.

Jake’s hard work was also reflected on the academic front when one of his teachers at Noblesville High School, Joe Toms, nominated him to participate in the Purdue Research Park Entrepreneurship Academy, established by Purdue University. Jake was among the 50 students from the state of Indiana who was chosen to participate, based on an essay, in the week-long academy. The purpose is to provide innovative math, science, and technology-based business and life skills by having the students work in teams on a business case. Throughout the week, they have the opportunity to interact with industry leaders and successful entrepreneurs. The competing teams spend the week developing a business plan to make an “investor pitch” to a panel of judges. These students truly exude creativity, initiative, overall academic strength, and an interest in concepts and concerns that are relevant to entrepreneurship, which will carry them far as they embark on their future careers.

I am proud to represent such a young constituent who not only understands the value of money, but also knows how to save it. Jake’s success is a measure of his strong work ethic, for which I commend him. I believe it is important to remember stories like these in such trying economic times, which keep our spirits alive—not only in Indiana, but throughout the Nation.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 88TH ANNUAL FEAST OF ST. WENCESLAUS

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 23, 2011

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the Czech Catholics of Greater Cleveland's 88th Annual Feast of St. Wenceslaus on September 24, 2011 at Our Lady of Lourdes Parish. This year's celebration will also honor the 100th anniversary of the founding of Cleveland's former Holy Family Parish.

St. Wenceslaus is the patron saint of the Czech Republic. Every year, his feast day, September 28th, is celebrated by Czech communities around the world. St. Wenceslaus was the leader of Old Bohemia during the early part of the 10th Century. During his tenure as king, St. Wenceslaus took a vow of chastity and was devoted to his Christian faith. Killed by his brother, St. Wenceslaus was later canonized as a martyr of the Christian faith.

In addition to celebrating the Feast of St. Wenceslaus, the 100th anniversary of the founding of the former Holy Family Parish will be recognized at this year's celebration. Holy Family was founded on November 6, 1911 after Father Rudolph Habrda noticed Bohemian families moving into Cleveland's Woodland Hills neighborhood. Over the years, as parishioners began to move to the suburbs, the parish school merged with St. Cecilia, Epiphany and St. Mary of Czestochowa to form Mr. Pleasant Elementary School. In 1988, the Holy Family Parish was closed.

Our Lady of Lourdes Parish is one of only two Czech congregations left in the Cleveland Catholic Diocese, along with St. John Nepomucene in Slavic Village. The Czech Catholics of Greater Cleveland will gather together on September 24th for mass and a celebration featuring the Hronek Czech Band.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in recognition of the 88th Annual Feast of St. Wenceslaus. I offer my best wishes to the Czech Catholics of Greater Cleveland and all those who attend this joyous celebration.

TAIWAN CENTENNIAL NATIONAL DAY

HON. THOMAS E. PETRI

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 23, 2011

Mr. PETRI. Mr. Speaker, I salute Taiwan on its forthcoming Centennial National Day, also known as Double-10 Day, October 10, 2011.

The Republic of China on Taiwan is a model of success for Asia. For over six decades now, the Taiwanese people have struggled to lift their island into the top ranks of the world's economies. The recently released 2010 World Competitive Yearbook finds Taiwan to have the 8th most competitive economy among the 58 countries surveyed.

Over the past year, the number of employed people has increased and the unemployment rate has dropped to an enviable 5.17 percent.

Even more important than its economic achievements, Taiwan has developed into a strong and vibrant democracy. It is a valued

member of the free nations of the world, even though it is burdened with particular and unique diplomatic challenges—challenges which the Taiwanese people and government have met with courage.

On the occasion of the Republic of China's Centennial National Day, I hope there can be renewed peaceful coexistence and co-prosperity between Taiwan and the Chinese mainland. There have been many agreements reached between the two sides, including direct air and sea links, increased mutual investments, and regular negotiations over economic and other substantial issues.

Also, I offer my congratulations to Taiwan for its continued participation in the World Health Assembly meetings last May in Geneva and to its continuing commitment to safeguarding human rights and other universal values.

Congratulations to the Republic of China. I look forward to closer relations between the United States and Taiwan.

THE COME-FROM-BEHIND GRASSHOPPERS WIN IT ALL

HON. HOWARD COBLE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 23, 2011

Mr. COBLE. Mr. Speaker, as Major League Baseball begins its post-season push, the professional minor leagues are concluding their seasons. The citizens of the Sixth District of North Carolina are celebrating the first championship since 1982 of the Greensboro Grasshoppers of the South Atlantic League.

The Hoppers—as their fans affectionately call them—were a dramatic, come-from-behind team all season. It took the final games of the season for the Hoppers to even qualify for post-season play. Greensboro split the first two games at home in the best-of-five championship series against the Savannah Sand Gnats. When the series moved to Savannah, the Hoppers lost game three to the Sand Gnats. It has been 11 years in the “Sally League” since a team leading two-games-to-one failed to clinch the championship. With Savannah needing only one more win to capture the South Atlantic League title, the Hoppers were facing the end of their season, when they pulled out a heart-stopping, 11-inning win to force a fifth and deciding game.

Even in the championship game, Greensboro fell behind 2-0 early before cruising to 7-3 win to capture its first South Atlantic League championship in almost three decades. Hoppers Manager Andy Haines told the Greensboro News & Record that he could not pick a Most Valuable Player for the series. “There’s no way I could name anyone,” Haines told the newspaper. “We had a lot of guys contribute. It was someone different every night.”

All of the Grasshoppers can be proud of the regular season, along with the dramatic run to the title. Among those who were part of Greensboro's first championship since 1982 included: pitchers Michael Brady, Alex Caldera, Jordan Conley, Grant Dayton, James Leverton, Miguel Mejia, Robert Morey, Gregory Nappo, Mike Ojala, Chris Shafer, Rett Varner, Kyle Winters, and Brett Zawacki. The catchers were Aaron Dudley, Wilfredo Gimenez, and Jacob Realmuto. The infielders

included Daniel Black, Joe Bonadonna, Mark Canha, Ryan Fisher, and Noah Perio. The outfielders were Issac Galloway, Marcell Ozuna, James Wooster, and Christian Yelich. Only one of those on the disabled list, Zachary Neal, made it onto the post-season roster, but the others contributed during the year and they included Kevin Cravey, Alan Oaks, Jay Rogers, Adam Veres, and Sean Watson.

Greensboro is one of the best-run minor league teams in the entire United States and it is because of an outstanding front office. This championship caliber group includes: Donald Moore, President/General Manager; Katie Dannemiller, Vice President, Baseball Operations; Jimmy Kesler, CFO; Tim Vangel, Assistant General Manager, Sales and Marketing; Jake Holloway, Assistant General Manager, Head Groundskeeper; Erich Dietz, Director of Ticketing; Todd Olson, Sales Associate; Murray White, Sales Associate; Joey Burrigge, Sales Associate/Ticket Representative; Rosalee Brewer, Sales Associate; John Redhead, Executive Director of Business Development; Laura Damico, Director of Community and Event Development; Shawn Russell, Director of Promotions/Production; Amanda Williams, Director of Creative Services; Yunhui Bradshaw, Director of Merchandise; Chad Green, Assistant Director of Stadium Operations; Kaid Musgrave, Assistant Groundskeeper; and Bob Perry, Clubhouse Director.

Championship Skipper Andy Haines was ably assisted by Pitching Coach Willie Glen and Hitting Coach Kevin Randel. The players were kept in championship form all season long by Athletic Trainer Masa Fujimoto and Strength and Conditioning Coach Cody Clark.

On behalf of the citizens of the Sixth District of North Carolina, we congratulate Greensboro Grasshoppers owners Cooper Brantley, Wes Elingburg and Len White and everyone affiliated with the Hoppers on providing its fans with so many dramatic moments during a memorable season. All of us who love the Hoppers are basking in the glow of the first South Atlantic League Championship since 1982. We may see some of today's Grasshoppers playing for the parent club—the Florida Marlins—in the near future, but none of us will forget the 2011 season when Greensboro came from behind numerous times to win it all.

TRIBUTE TO DARRELL WALTRIP

HON. MARSHA BLACKBURN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 23, 2011

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, on this week when NASCAR's Chase for the Cup begins, I rise today to celebrate another landmark achievement for a 3-time Cup winner and resident of Tennessee's 7th District who I am truly privileged to call a good friend. Darrell Waltrip will join the third class of inductees in the NASCAR Hall of Fame.

Darrell was born and raised in Owensboro, Kentucky, but began making his mark as a professional driver at the old Nashville Speedway in the 1970s. We are proud that Darrell and his wife, Stevie call Franklin, Tennessee home.

This much-deserved accolade caps D.W.'s legendary career which included three